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Group Art Unit: 3738  
Examiner: Blanco, J.

Atty. Ref.: Kerr-5

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Andrew Kerr  
Appl. No. : 09/900,241  
Filed : July 6, 2001  
For : AXIALLY-CONNECTED STENT/GRAFT ASSEMBLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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**FIFTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

The above-identified U.S. patent application corresponds to European Appl. No. 02008139.4. A Search Report issued in connection with the European application on December 12, 2002. The European Searcher identified four references as being relevant. Those references have been listed on the attached copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the references are attached.

The applicant herein also had been prosecuting U.S. Patent Appl. No. 09/961,825. There has been no action on Appl. No. 09/961,825. The above-referenced

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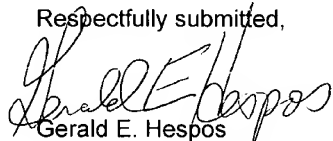
on January 3, 2003

Marie B. Bufalo

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European Appl. No. 02008139.4 had claimed priority on both the above-captioned U.S. application and on the copending Appl. No. 09/961,825. It is believed that the references cited in the European Search Report are relevant to the copending Appl. No. 09/961,825, and in fact the copending Appl. No. 09/961,825 has been abandoned in view of these references. The references cited in the European Search Report and listed on the attached copy of Form PTO-1449 are believed to be much less relevant to the amended claims that are before the Examiner in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

Gerald E. Hespos

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Date: January 3, 2003